



CDF Firefighters

Training Overview

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) responds to more than 275,000 emergency incidents each year. Every fire engine that responds from a CDF station carries firefighters, fire apparatus engineers and/or fire captains that have met, at a minimum, the extensive training requirements included on this fact sheet.

Firefighter I

- ◆ **Public Safety First Aid**
 - Public Safety CPR
 - Communicable Disease Awareness
 - Child and Elder Abuse
 - Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS)
- ◆ **Firefighter I Basic 67 Hour Training**
 - Personal Protective Equipment
 - Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus
- ◆ **Hazardous Materials: First Responder-Operational**
- ◆ **Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO)/ Sexual Harassment**
- ◆ **Defensive Drivers Training**
- ◆ **Introduction to Incident Command System (ICS)**
- ◆ **Wildland Firefighter Survival**
(140 total hours required within the first year)

Firefighter II

- ◆ **All Firefighter I requirements AND:**
- ◆ **First Responder Medical Training**
- ◆ **Basic Fire Academy (BFC 1A)**
- ◆ **Basic Fire Academy Fire: fighting skills (BFC 1B)**
- ◆ **Basic Incident Command System**
- ◆ **Confined Space Rescue**
- ◆ **Joint Apprenticeship Committee Syllabus I (144 hours)**
- ◆ **Joint Apprenticeship Committee Syllabus 2/3 (144 hours)**
(459 total hours required within the first year
144 additional hours within 2nd and/or 3rd year)

Fire Apparatus Engineer

- ◆ **All firefighter I and II requirements AND:**
- ◆ **Basic Fire Academy (BFC 2A): Driver Operator**
- ◆ **Basic Fire Academy (BFC 2B): Skills Application**
- ◆ **Intermediate Wildland Behavior**
- ◆ **FAE Joint Apprenticeship Committee Syllabus I (144 hours)**
- ◆ **Incident Management I**
- ◆ **FAE Joint Approval Committee Syllabus 2/3 (144 hours)**
- ◆ **Incident Management 2**
(459 total hours required within the first year
224 total hours required within three years)



Training Overview (Cont.)

Fire Captain (A)

- ◆ Intermediate Incident Command System Training
 - ◆ Substance Abuse Identification
 - ◆ Leadership Development
- (122 total hours required within the first year)



Fire Captain (B) Crew Captain

Crew captains supervise inmate, ward, and California Conservation Corp (CCC) fire crews.

- ◆ All Fire Captain A requirements AND:
 - ◆ Fire Crew Captain Module Training
- (40 total hours required within the first year)



Safety Rules

Ten Standard Fire Fighting Orders

These are the rules that CDF fire personnel must be ever mindful of when responding to an incident.

1. Keep informed of **FIRE WEATHER** conditions and forecasts.
2. Know what your **FIRE** is doing at all times.
3. Base all actions on current and expected **FIRE BEHAVIOR**.
4. Have **ESCAPE ROUTES** for everyone and make them known.
5. Post a **LOOKOUT** where you think there is possible danger.
6. Be **ALERT**, keep **CALM**, **THINK** clearly and **ACT** decisively.
7. Maintain prompt **COMMUNICATIONS** with your crew, your boss and adjoining forces.
8. Give clear **INSTRUCTIONS** and be sure they are understood.
9. Maintain **CONTROL** of your personnel at all times.
10. Fight fire aggressively, but provide for **SAFETY** first.

18 Situations that shout “Watch Out”

CDF firefighters are trained to be alert for these situations that represent added danger to crews on or responding to a fire.

1. You are unfamiliar with the local weather patterns.
2. The weather is getting hotter and drier.
3. The wind is increasing or changing direction.
4. You have not scouted or sized up the fire.
5. You are in terrain that you have not seen in daylight
6. There are frequent spot fires across the fire line.
7. Safety zones and escape routes have not been identified.
8. The terrain and fuels are making it difficult to get to safety zones.
9. You cannot see the main fire and are not in contact with anyone who can.
10. You are taking a nap near the fireline.
11. You are uninformed on strategy, tactics and hazards.
12. Your instructions and assignments are not clear.
13. You have no communication link with crew members or supervisors.
14. You are constructing fire line without a safe anchor point.
15. You are building fire line downhill with fire below you.
16. You are attempting a frontal assault on the fire.
17. There is unburned fuel between you and the fire.
18. You are on a hillside where rolling material can ignite the fuel below you.

